

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 12729

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, MILI, AWACS, NATO, GR
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR NATO AEW (AWACS) PROGRAM

REFS: A. STATE 265681 (DTG 281457Z OCT 76), B. STATE 274208
(DTG 061845Z NOV 76), C. STATE 289888 (DTG 262004Z NOV 76),
(NOTAL), D. STATE A-5274

1. DCM AND POL/MIL OFFICER CALLED ON MJA NATO AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR CHORAFAS ON NOVEMBER 30 AND PRESENTED AIRBORNE
EARLY WARNING AIDE MEMOIRE (REFS). AMBASSADOR CHORAFAS
RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO PRESENTATION AND SAID HE HAD
PRELIMINARY RPT PRELIMINARY GOOD NEWS TO REPORT.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT SITTING ON THE DPC, SHORAFAS SAID,
GREECE HAD BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED IN BRUSSELS BY SYG
LUNS OF DPC DELIBERATIONS, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING THE AEW
PROGRAM, AND KNEW STATUS OF THE PROPOSAL. HE FRANKLY
STATED THAT BOTH THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES
WANTED TO TRY TO "DISASSOCIATE" THE QUESTION OF GREECE'S
PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO AEW PROGRAM FROM THE LARGER ISSUE
OF NEGOTIATIONS ON GREECE'S STATUS IN NATO. BOTH MINISTERS
THEREFORE HAD STARTED THE PROCESS OF PLACING THE WHOLE MATTER
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BEFORE THE GREEK INNER CABINET WITH A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION.

(CJUSMAGG CHIEF WILL FOLLOW UP WITH THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES.)

3. CHORAFAS DOUBTED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A DECISION BEFORE NEXT WEEK'S DPC. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY, HE SAID THE GREEK PERMREP WAS UNAWARE THAT MATTER HAD PROGRESSED THIS FAR. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS NO NEED AT THIS STAGE TO INFORM THE GREEK PERMREP OR OTHER ALLIES AND IMPLIED THERE WOULD BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO IF RPT IF THE GREEK INNER CABINET AND THE DPC MINISTERIAL DECISIONS WERE BOTH FAVORABLE.

4. COMMENT: CHORAFAS SEEMED CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE INNER CABINET DELIBERATION. HE SAID THAT THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WERE VERY COMPLICATED AND IMPORTANT TO GREECE'S DECISION. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT A SEGMENT OF THE GREEK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE BELIEVED THAT ONE OF THE FORWARD OPERATING BASES FOR THE PROGRAM OUGHT TO BE IN GREECE; OTHERWISE THE PROGRAM'S VALUE WOULD BE GREATLY DIMINISHED FOR THE GOG.

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